

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W

-----019811 291343Z /45

R 281443Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0786

INFO AMEMBASSYADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION UN NY 0598

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 0746

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, GB

SUBJ: GABON WELCOMES ZIMBABWEAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INSTALLATION

1) FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT
ISSUED BY GABONESE FOREIGN MINISTER MARTIN BONGO MARCH 24
CONCERNING ZIMBABWEAN DEVELOPMENTS: QUOTE: IN MY CAPACITY
AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY PROVIDING
THE OAU CHAIRMAN, I WELCOME WITH OPTIMISM THE CREATION OF
AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN ZIMBABWE MADE UP WITH A MAJORITY
OF BLACKS, WHILE HOPING THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL JOIN
THIS COUNCIL TO REINFORCE THE BLACK MAJORITY. WHEREAS NO
ONE THOUGHT THAT ONE DAY MR. SMITH WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A
SOLUTION, IT IS ALREADY A STEP TOWARD FINAL VICTORY.

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THE NEXT STAGE WILL BE THE COMPOSITION OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH ITSELF MUST ALSO REFLECT THE
BLACK MAJORITY. IN LIGHT OF THIS PROGRESSIVE
EVOLUTION IT SHOULD BE AGREED TO REEXAMINE OUR POSITIONS
IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE 14TH OAU SUMMIT. END QUOTE.

2. THE RELEASE OF GABON'S ZIMBABWE DECLARATION COINCIDED

WITH THE LIBREVILLE ARRIVAL OF OAU SEC-GEN ETEKI WHO MET
WITH PRESIDENT BONGO MARCH 25. ETEKI REFUSED
TO COMMENT TO GABONESE PRESS ABOUT STATEMENT. HE DID
NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE OAU EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT REMAINED IN EFFECT UNTIL CANCELED
OR MODIFIED BY OAU. ACCORDING TO ETEKI, OAU POSITION
WOULD BE CLOSELY STUDIED DURING DAR ES SALAAM MEETINGS
BETWEEN FRONT LINE STATES, PATRIOTIC FRONT AND AMBASSADOR
YOUNG WHICH WOULD STUDY WHETHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN PLAN MIGHT BE COMBINED WITH THE SALISBURY
AGREEMENT. ETEKI WENT ON TO GIVE MOST OF CREDIT FOR
SMITH REGIMES WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE TO PATRIOTIC
FRONT PRESSURE AND CALLED FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS.TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV00746
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0269
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780319/aaaaapqp.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e4581bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3184674
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GABON WELCOMES ZIMBABWEAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INSTALLATION 1) FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY GABONESE FOREIGN MINISTER MARTIN BONGO M
TAGS: PDEV, RH, GB, (BONGO, MARTIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e4581bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014